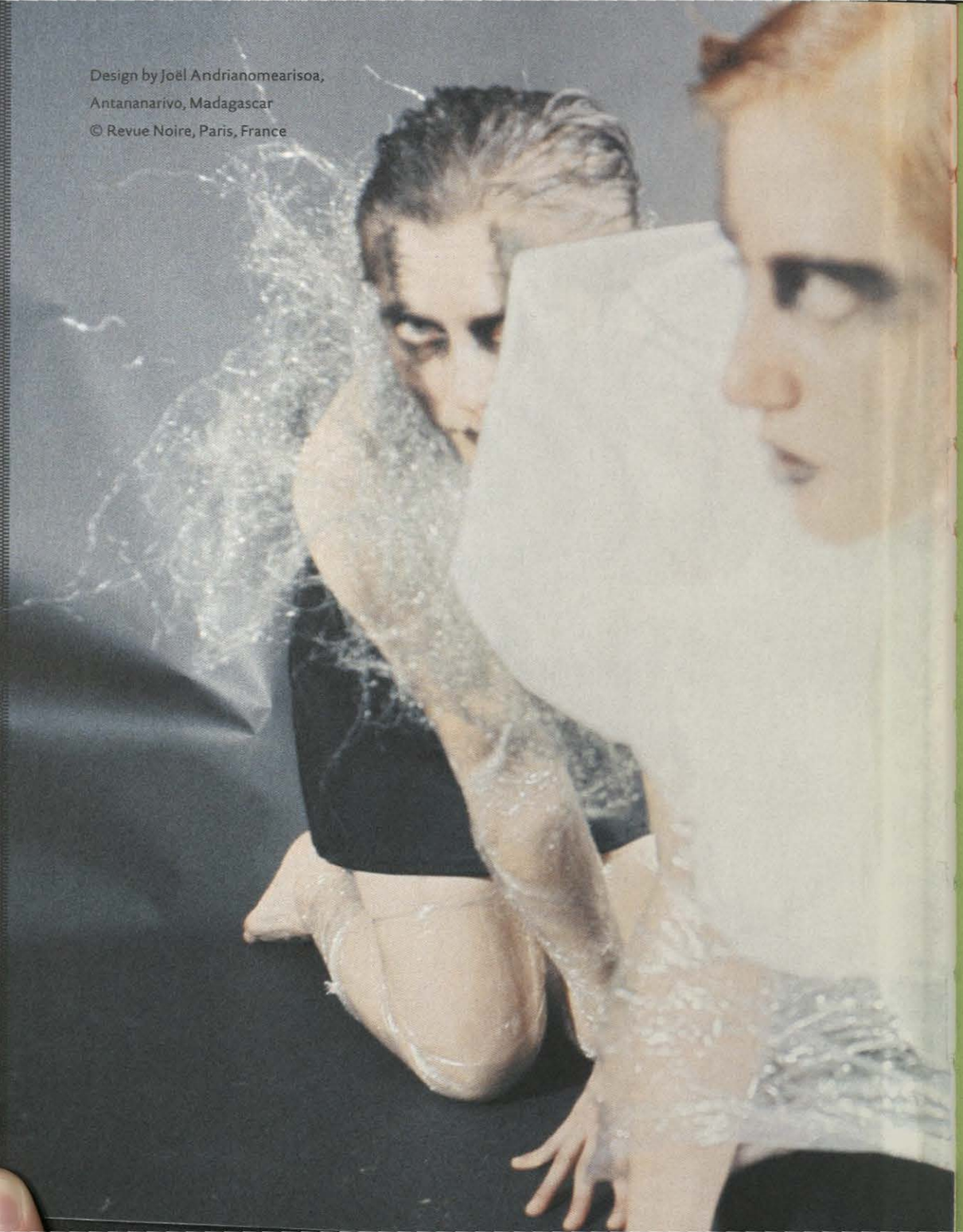

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THE ART OF AFRICAN FASHION

Prince Claus Fund, THE NETHERLANDS
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THE ART OF AFRICAN FASHION

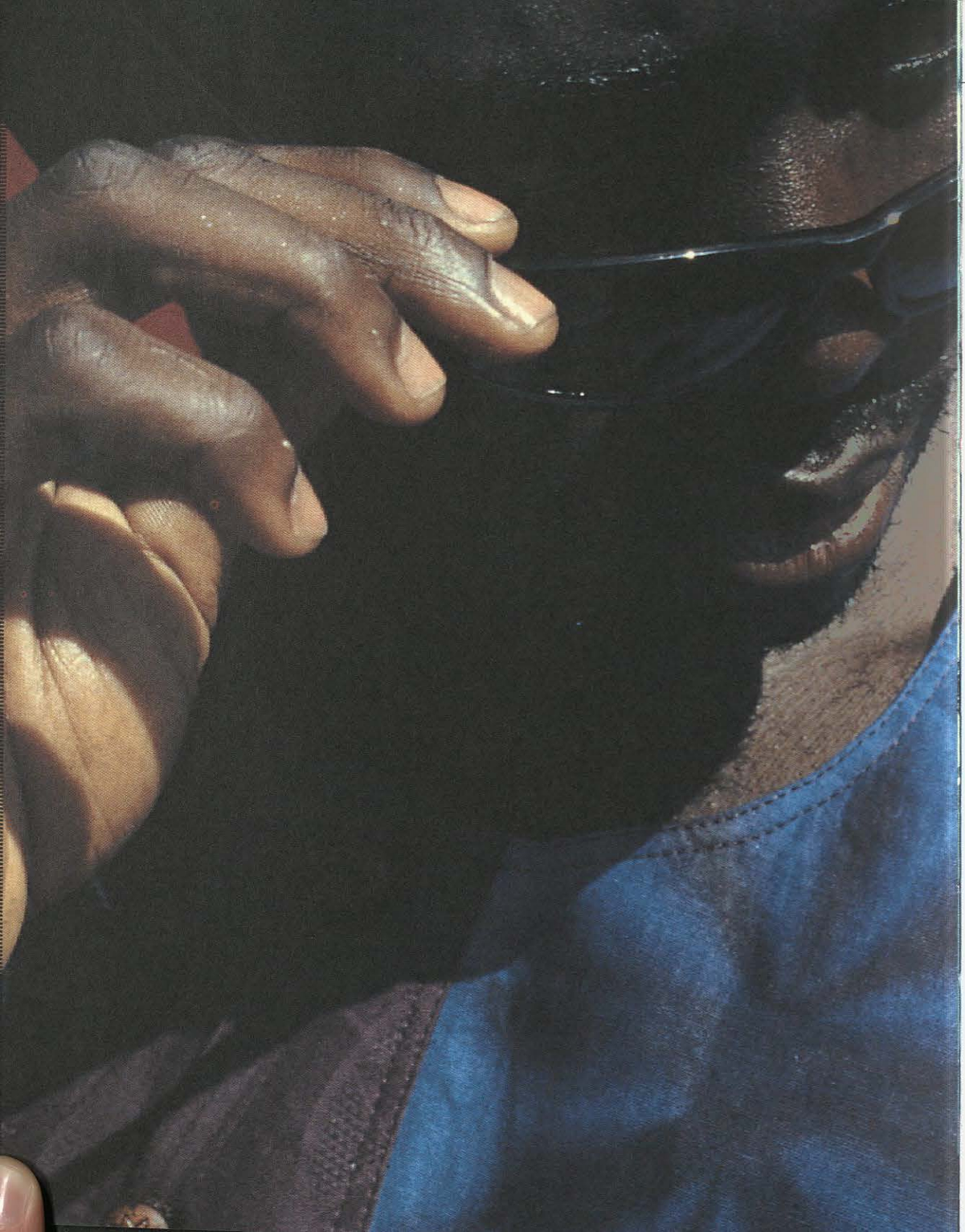
The Prince Claus Fund stimulates and supports activities in the field of culture and development by presenting annual awards, by funding and producing publications and by financing and promoting intercultural exchange. Equality, respect and trust are the essential parameters of partnerships; quality and innovation are the preconditions of support. The Fund was established to mark the 70th birthday of HRH Prince Claus of the Netherlands on 6 September 1996. It represents an appreciation of his lifelong efforts stressing the importance of culture in international co-operation and of his achievements in this field.

The Fund adopts a broad and dynamic approach to culture, based on the concept of constant change. Culture is those values and processes which invest life with meaning through professional artistic achievements and academic work in the humanities. The Fund's chief interest is in the development of ideas and ideals, the manner in which people give form to these ideas and ideals and the manner in which such ideas and ideals give form to society.

This book has been published to mark the presentation of the Principal 1998 Prince Claus Award to The Art of African Fashion, honouring the arts of fashion design, textile design, hair design and body decoration – in short all arts relating to the decoration of human beings and the expression of the Self. The Prince Claus Fund acknowledges the artistic, social and economic importance of this industry in Africa and its influence on the international world of culture. The award was presented by HRH Prince Claus of the Netherlands on 9 December 1998 at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. The laureates, representing The Art of African Fashion were Alphadi (Niger), Oumou Sy (Senegal) and Tetteh Adzedu (Ghana). The publication also accompanies the exhibition 'African Fashion Design' in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, held from 12 December 1998 until 31 January 1999.

The Art of African Fashion has been produced in co-operation with the Eritrean publisher Africa World Press in order to ensure international distribution with a focus on Africa. This international aspect is crucial for the designers, authors and photographers. The Fund and the Africa World Press would like to thank all these contributors for their enthusiasm and commitment.

Els van der Plas
Director of the Prince Claus Fund



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